



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION I
JOHN F. KENNEDY FEDERAL BUILDING
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October 23, 1997

James Shafer, Remedial Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Navy
Naval Facilities Engineering Command
Northern Division
10 Industrial Highway
Code 1823, Mail Stop 82
Lester, PA 19113-2090

Re: October 15, 1997 Restoration Advisory Board minutes

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the minutes from the October 15, 1997 Restoration Advisory Board ("RAB"). Overall, the minutes accurately reflect the discussions with two exceptions noted below.

On the last line of page 5 after "funds allocation," please insert "Kymberlee indicated that she thought that the Gould Island Electroplating shops and the Naval Undersea Warfare Center Disposal Area may pose greater threats to human health and the environment than the tank farms "

Please change the response on page 6 to "Kymberlee stated that it depends upon the nature of the change and that minor changes to the FFA schedules can be amended by concurrence among the FFA parties."


I think it would be helpful if the Navy made an effort to refocus the RAB at the November 19, 1997 meeting. As indicated in the Department of Defense's RAB Resource Book, the "...RAB's focus should be the DoD's environmental restoration program...." The RAB provides a forum for representatives of the installation, regulatory agencies, and the community to discuss and exchange information about the environmental cleanup mandated by federal law. The RAB also gives stakeholders the opportunity to participate in the cleanup process and make their views known to decision makers. I believe that contaminated areas at NETC should be cleaned up starting with the most contaminated sites first. I am concerned about the recent RAB discussions that propose future land use decisions for NETC property that may be excessed as the impetus for the order of environmental cleanups. I recommend that we separate future land use issues from issues regarding the nature and extent of contamination.



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I look forward to working with you, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and the public toward the cleanup of NETC. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (617) 573-5777 should you have any questions or wish to arrange a meeting.

Sincerely,



Kymberlee Keckler, Remedial Project Manager
Federal Facilities Superfund Section

cc: Paul Kulpa, RIDEM, Providence, RI
Brad Wheeler, NETC, Newport, RI
Sarah White, USEPA, Boston, MA
Steven Parker, Brown & Root, Wilmington, MA
Mary Philcox, ERICD, Middletown, RI